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Hairs yellowish or golden, moderately long and abundant on body. Antennal scape with approximately six prominent, erect hairs.

Thorax, petiole, postpetiole, and gaster blackish; head dark reddish brown; legs yellowish.

Type locality.—Along bank of Gama River, Milne Bay, New Guinea; 300 feet elevation.

Type.—United States National Museum No. 58209.

The unique soldier holotype was collected March 5, 1944, by Karl V. Krombein.

A NEW SPECIES OF METAPONE FOREL FROM NEW GUINEA (Hymenoptera, Formicidae)

BY MARION R. SMITH, *Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, United States Department of Agriculture*

Among the interesting ants collected by Karl V. Krombein in New Guinea is a new species of *Metapone* which is described below. This is the eleventh recognized species in the genus. In 1919, when Wheeler revised *Metapone* (Ent. Soc. Amer. Ann. 12 (3): 173, 7 figs), he treated seven species. These and their type localities are as follows: *M. bakeri* Wheeler, Mount Banahao, Luzon Island, Philippines; *greeni* Forel, Peradeniya, Ceylon; *hewitti* Wheeler, Kuching, Borneo; *leae* Wheeler, Mount Tambourine, Queensland; *mjoebergi* Forel, Malanda, Queensland; *sauteri* Forel, Sokutsu, Banshoryo District, Formosa; *tillyardi* Wheeler, Dorrigo, New South Wales. Later Crawley 1924, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist. 13 (76): 389) described *jacobsoni* from Fort de Kock, Sumatra; Karawajew (1933, Konowia 12 (1-2): 115) described *johni* from Hantana, Ceylon; and Wheeler (1935, Psyche 42 (1): 38) described *gracilis* from Dapitan on Mindanao Island, Philippines.

The genus *Metapone* includes forms of such peculiar structure that the taxonomic relationships and status of the group have not yet been clearly determined. In 1911 Forel placed the genus in a new tribe, the Metaponini, of the subfamily Ponerinae; and in 1912 Emery concluded that the larvae of *M. greeni* were definitely myrmicine and placed the tribe Metaponini along with the tribe Pseudomyrmicini in the section Promyrmicinae of the subfamily Myrmicinae. Finally Wheeler after much study stated, "It should, of course, constitute an independent tribe, Metaponini, as Forel and Emery maintain, but its position among the other tribes of the Myrmicinae is not easily determined. It might be placed provisionally be-

tween Emery's Melissotarsini and his Stereomyrmicini, which have 11-jointed antennae in both male and female phases." I agree that the ants belong to the subfamily Myrmicinae, but reserve my opinion as to the further status and position of the group.

According to present information these ants form small colonies in dead branches and are thought to feed on termites.

Metapone krombeini, new species

Alate female.—Length 8 mm.

Head subrectangular, approximately one and one-half times longer than broad when measured through its greatest breadth and length, narrowest anteriorly, with distinct but not strongly emarginate posterior border. Clypeus extended medially as a prominent, subrectangular lobe which has subparallel sides and subtruncate anterior border; posterior border of clypeus without a distinct suture, but the clypeus separated from the remainder of the head by a more or less curved, transverse impression. Frontal area and frontal groove lacking. Vertex with three rather indistinct ocelli. Eye oval, approximately as long as the last two funicular segments, situated more than its greatest diameter from the base of the mandible, with numerous very small facets. Mandibles overlapping, longer than broad; each with five teeth, not including the tooth-like lobe formed by the junction of masticatory border and superior border of the mandible. Thorax wider anteriorly than posteriorly, approximately three times as long as wide, widest through the mesothorax, weakly convex above. Prothorax marginate both anteriorly and laterally, the epinotum marginate only laterally. Anterior wing with a well-developed stigma. Epinotum broadest anteriorly, about one and one-fourth times as long as its greatest breadth; in profile, the dorsal surface sloping posteriorly to meet the slightly concave declivous surface in a bluntly rounded angle. Petiole, in profile, subrectangular; anterior surface of the node concave, dorsal surface convex and also longitudinally arched, posterior dorsolateral region with a blunt, rounded tooth, which is shorter than the basal width of the tooth; ventral surface of petiole with only a prominent, blunt, longitudinal lobe. Petiole submarginate; from above, approximately one and three-tenths times as long as broad, anterior border transverse and straight, lateral borders divergent posteriorly, posterior border broadly emarginate forming a distinct tooth on each side. Pospetiole convex dorsally; from above, approximately one and one-third times as broad as long, widest at the anterior two-thirds of its length; ventral surface with a prominent, transverse ridge. Gaster elongate, oval, without humeral angles, the first gastric segment approximately one and eight-tenths times the length of the petiole.

Dorsal surface of head and thorax longitudinally striated, the striae finer on the scutellum and epinotum, sides of head with fine striae, those on the mesopleuron and side of epinotum unusually fine. Dorsal surface

of petiole with fine, longitudinal striae, that of the postpetiole either with indistinct or no striae.

Head, thorax, petiole, and postpetiole black, gaster reddish brown; antennae and legs lighter than remainder of body excepting the gaster. Wings brown, veins darker than remainder of wings, stigma black.

Type locality.—K. B. Mission, Milne Bay, New Guinea.

Described from a single winged female collected by Karl V. Krombein, March 26-28, 1944. The holotype specimen, which bears U. S. N. M. No. 58,003, is in the collection of the United States National Museum.

This species can be readily recognized by the following characters: Small size; shape and prominence of the clypeal lobe; structure of the petiole and postpetiole; and color of the body. In the 1919 key to the species of *Metapone* by Wheeler, the ant would key out to *sauteri;* it differs from that species, however, in many respects, but mainly in the proportions of the epinotum and first gastric segment, and in the structure of the petiole. The first gastric segment in *sauteri* is nearly three times as long as the petiole and one and one-half times as long as broad. The petiole of *sauteri* has two prominent protuberances beneath, and the length of the body is 10.5 to 11.1 mm.

OVIPOSITION HABITS AND EARLY STAGES OF A EUCHARID (KAPALA SP.) (Hymenoptera)

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In January 1945 the writer observed a eucharid, *Kapala* sp., ovipositing on the under surface of a leaf of malvaceous plant near Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Further search for adults, egg masses, and host was made, but additional material was not found in the limited time available. The female was observed closely for a few minutes and then captured and killed. The leaf containing the eggs was placed in a tin box, and a few days later moist cotton was added in order to maintain the humidity. The eggs developed satisfactorily up to the completion of the fully formed first-instar larva within the shells, but unfortunately the larvae did not rupture the egg shells and they had to be teased out of the confining membrane in order to make good mounts for further study.

[1]The writer is indebted to H. L. Parker for helpful criticism of the drawing and suggestions in the preparation of the manuscript, and to A. B. Gahan for identification of the eucharid.